AITUTAKI

Aitutaki, an island of the Cook Islands located in the Central-Southern Pacific Ocean, acquired its own postal service in August 1972.

Aitutaki

Population: 2194 (2006)
Area: 7.1 square miles
Location: 140 miles north of Rarotonga
Status: Part of the Cook Islands
Currency: New Zealand currency:
100 cents = NZ$1 dollar (about 72¢ US)

Aitutaki is an atoll in the Cook Islands — a collection of fifteen islands brought together as an administrative unit by the British in the late eighteenth century. Aitutaki was discovered in 1779 by Captain Bligh of the ill-fated HMS *Bounty*. British missionary activity began in 1828. For nearly half a century, the British resisted petitions from the colonists in New Zealand and from the London Missionary Society to declare a protectorate over the islands. Finally, to head off French expansion, they declared the Cook Islands a protectorate in 1788.

From the beginning the British treated Aitutaki as a separate entity. The British Secretary of State for Colonies wrote to the Governor of New Zealand confirming the appointment of the first Resident.

Among his other duties, the new Resident set about establishing a postal system in all the islands, including Aitutaki, where a postmaster was appointed and Cook Islands stamps were placed in use. In 1901 New Zealand took direct control of the Cook Islands. On June 11, 1901, the British transferred Aitutaki to the Cook Islands Federal Council for administrative purposes, although the island retained its own postal services. On June 11, 1903, New Zealand stamps overprinted "Aitutaki" went on sale.

Cook Islands stamps replaced the Aitutaki overprints on March 15, 1932, and remained in use until August 1972, when specific Aitutaki issues resumed, apparently for financial as well as historic reasons. But its initially liberal stamp-issuing policy has given way to conservatism. Aitutaki has issued only five stamps since 2000 — the last in 2005. There is one post office on Aitutaki. Stamps of Cook Islands are valid on Aitutaki, but Aitutaki stamps may not be used on other islands.

For more on Aitutaki, visit www.stamps.org

AITUTAKI

Watermarked Single Lined N. Z. and Star

1903

1911-16

Like ½ P
6 P
CARMINE
ROSE
Scott No. 12

1916-17

1917-20

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1920

Watermarked N. Z. and Star Close Together

1926-27

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1972

1972

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1972

1972

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1973

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1973

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ANNE ROYAL WEDDING 14 NOVEMBER 1973

Aitutaki
COOK ISLANDS

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1973

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1974-75

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

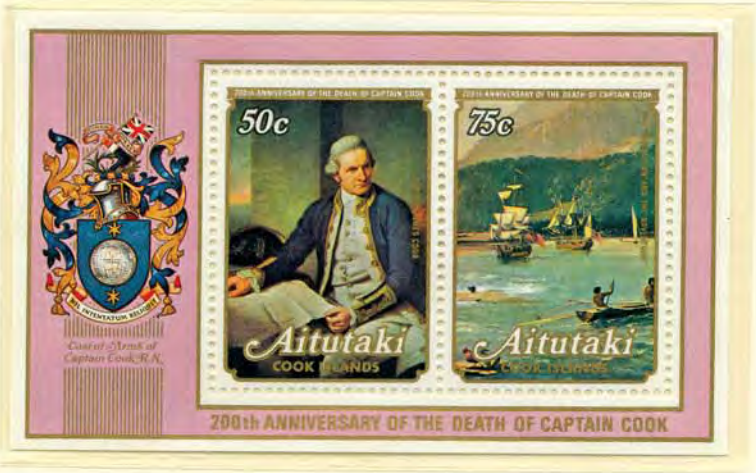
1974

AITUTAKI

Unwatermarked

1977

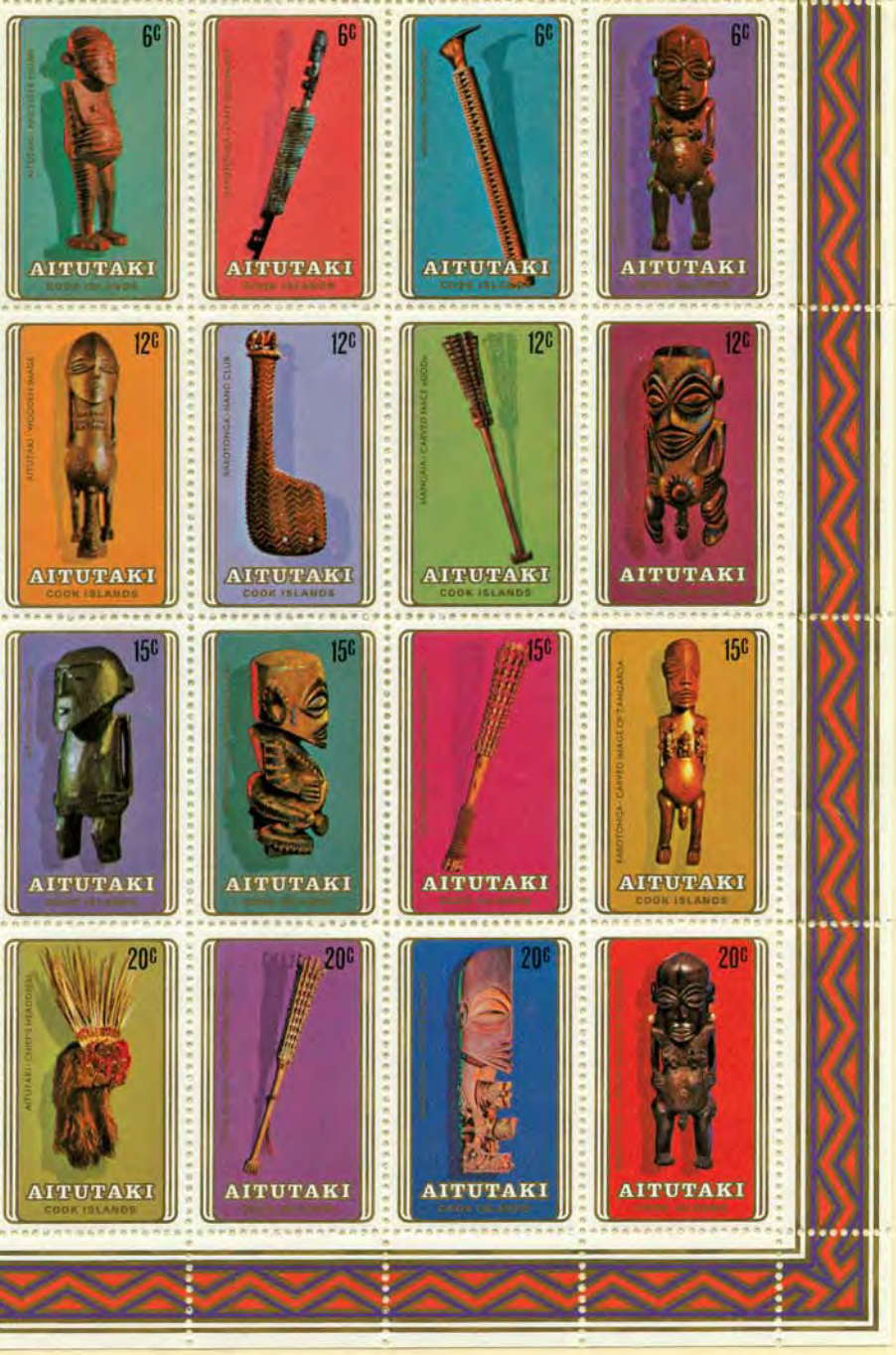
1778 1978
BICENTENNIAL OF COOK'S DISCOVERY OF HAWAII
HAWAIIAN GODDESS
35 c
AITUTAKI
COOK ISLANDS
BICENTENNIAL OF COOK'S DISCOVERY OF HAWAII
FIGUREHEAD OF H.M.S. RESOLUTION
50 c
AITUTAKI COOK ISLANDS
BICENTENNIAL OF COOK'S DISCOVERY OF HAWAII
HAWAIIAN TEMPLE FIGURE
$1.00
AITUTAKI
COOK ISLANDS
BICENTENNIAL OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK'S DISCOVERY OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS


50c
75c
Aitutaki
COOK ISLANDS
Aitutaki
Coastal Arms of Captain Cook R.N.
200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN COOK

AITUTAKI

1980

SOUTH PACIFIC FESTIVAL OF ARTS

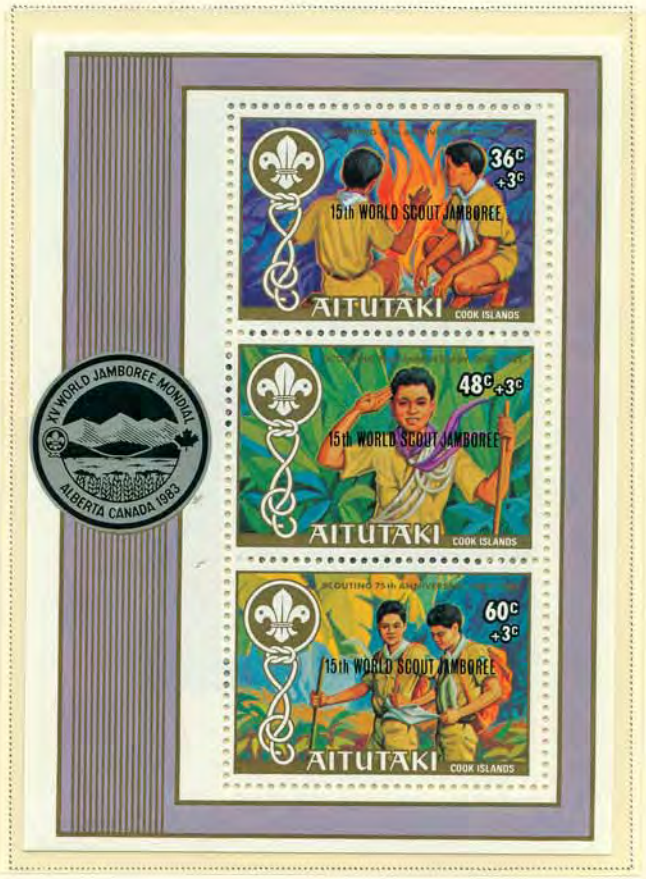


AITUTAKI

1983

AITUTAKI

1983



AITUTAKI

1984

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Aitutaki

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